

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Fire Victims Assistance Fund]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to allow tenants who have been displaced by fires to receive payments from the Fire Victims Assistance Fund for up to four years, instead of two years, if they earn 70% of Area Median Income or less, have not secured permanent replacement housing, and have applied for an affordable housing preference from the City as a tenant displaced by a fire.

Existing Law

The San Francisco Fire Victims Assistance Fund (the “Fund”) is a fund that can receive money appropriated or donated for the purpose of assisting victims of fires. Money in the Fund may be used by the Director of the Human Services Agency (the “Director”), or a designee, to provide rental assistance to people who have been displaced from their homes by fire in the past three months. The Director can make payments from the Fund to such displaced persons if they earned less than 100% of the Area Median Income. Assistance from the Fund to any person in connection with a single incident cannot extend beyond 24 months from the date of the incident. Payments from the Fund are entirely in the Director’s discretion and there is in no circumstance a right to a payment.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would allow the Director to use the Fund to provide rental assistance up to 48 months after the incident instead of 24 months a subset of individuals who are eligible for assistance under existing law. To qualify for extended assistance, persons must (1) earn 70% of Area Median Income or less; (2) have not resided in the unit from which they were displaced since the incident, (3) received services or financial support from the Human Services Agency within three months after the incident; (4) have not secured permanent replacement housing; (5) be unable to return to the building where the fire occurred because it is still uninhabitable; and (6) have applied to the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development for a preference in a City Affordable Housing Program as a tenant displaced by fire.

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